

Subject: German paperweight commemorating
first commercial submarine in Baltimore, MD

Hilken, Paul G.
[Boston, MA]

1936

NATIONAL UNIT CORPORATION

STONE & WEBSTER BUILDING

49 FEDERAL STREET
BOSTON

GRAYBAR BUILDING
420 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

New York
September 14, 1936

MOHAWK 4-4428

American Numismatic Society,
Broadway at 156th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Should you care to place in your collection a paper-weight of some historical interest, which was designed by the Baltimore sculptor, Hans Schuler, I shall be pleased to donate a specimen. The paper-weight commemorates the arrival in Baltimore of the commercial submarine "Deutschland", July 9, 1916.

It is in the form of an iron cross and was cast with the scrap iron brought over on the Deutschland's first voyage. In the center of each side is a bronze medal showing on the face a portrait bust of Captain Konig, surrounded by the inscription, "U-Deutschland, Paul Konig, Captain," and the medal on the reverse side shows the U- Deutschland surrounded by a band bearing the inscription:

"Zur erinnerung an die ankunft des ersten handels
U-Bootes in Baltimore 9. Juli, 1916."

"In commemoration of the arrival of the first com-
mercial submarine in Baltimore July 9, 1916."

As the Submarine "Deutschland" had a dead-weight carrying capacity of approximately 820 Tons, and as the cargo of dye stuffs which she brought from Germany to Baltimore was considerably less than this, about 300 Tons of iron ballast (more or less - I don't remember the exact figure) was loaded aboard the vessel in order to give her the necessary displacement.

On her arrival in Baltimore, this was stored at Locust Point and when, in the fall of the year, a bazaar was held in Baltimore for the benefit of German orphans, my father, Mr. Henry G. Hilken, conceived the idea of using the ballast for paper-weights which were sold at a dollar apiece.

Should you wish any further particulars regarding the facts of this and the following voyage of the "Deutschland" regarding cargoes carried both westward and eastward, I shall be pleased to give them to you. At the time I was American representative of the German Ocean Navigation Company, owners of the Submarine, and Vice-President and General Manager of the Eastern Forwarding Company, to whom the "Deutschland" was consigned.

Very truly yours,

PAUL G. L. HILKEN.

P. S. Should you wish to inspect the paper-weight, you may do so at this office.

PGLH:A.

September 16, 1936

Mr. Paul G. L. Hilken,
National Unit Corp.,
420 Lexington Ave.
New York, NY

Dear Sir:

In reply to your favor of Sept. 14th, offering us one of the Deutschland paper weights by Hans Schuler, would say that we already have one of these which was presented to us in 1917 by one of our Baltimore members.

I wish to thank you for offering one of these to us and am glad you went into the detail you did concerning them, as you have given us a little more information about these than we already had.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks